

Uniting Church in Australia

Presbytery of Western Australia



Minutes of the General Meeting of
the Presbytery of Western Australia
Noranda Uniting Church
on 20 November 2021

1. CONSTITUTION

On Saturday 20 November 2021 at 9.04 am, the Presbytery of Western Australia met at Noranda Uniting Church, the Chairperson, Alison Xamon, presiding.

There were 38 ministerial and 63 lay members present, with 3 attending via Zoom. 52 apologies were submitted.

2. WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chairperson welcomed the members to this Annual General Meeting, acknowledged that we are on Whadjuk Noongar land, the first people among us, and the work that remains as we walk together in covenant.

Mitchell Garlett of the Whadjuk Noongar people welcomed us to country, recognising his elders present, encouraged us to recognise all of our Elders, and our covenant's hope to learn as we journey together for tomorrow.

3. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The Secretary, Rev Dr David Ferguson, reported on the arrangements made for the meeting. He noted particularly that we are meeting in accordance with a COVID Safe plan approved by Church Council of The Noranda Uniting Church and thanked them for their co-operation in making it possible for the Presbytery to meet in their premises.

The Rev Dr David Ferguson moved on behalf of the Business Committee:

That the WA Presbytery agrees:

1. to amend the Roll of Presbytery attached to the Minutes of the Presbytery meeting on 19 June 2021 by:

Office Bearers

Alison Xamon - Chairperson

Ministers in Active Service

Rev Andrew Syme – removed by request

Rev Rob Douglas – received by induction

Rev Robert Jetta – Moved to UAICC by request

Associate Ministers

Rev Don Dowling – removed by request

Ministers co-opted

Rev Des Cousins – Co-option

Rev John Dunn – General Secretary

Rev Lorraine Stokes – Thrive Mission Committee

Congregational Lay Reps

Arnold Ardian – removed by request (Mount Pleasant)
Brian Gluestein – added by appointment (Mt Pleasant)
Darian Partington – added by appointment (Trinity North Uniting Church)
Annette Bryant – added by appointment (Star Street)
Clare Ligtermoet – removed due to relocation to Victoria (Star Street)
Paul Olney – removed by request (St Peter & Emmaus)
Sue Strutt – added by appointment (St Peter & Emmaus)

Alternates

Bob Lockley – once-off alternate rep for Northam as Ann Barnes is an apology
Faith Communities
Nannup – Removed
Sheena Hesse – Removed by request (Toodyay)

Representatives of UAICC

Rev Robert Jetta – added by appointment
Lenny Yarran – added by appointment

Co-opted Lay Members

Mark Brisbane-SSC
Bob Hunt – Past Chairperson
Sue Strutt - PRC
Alison Xamon - moved to Office Bearers

2. Adopt the Order of Business for the meeting
3. Appoint Rev Dr Herman Nienaber and Rev Ruth Vertigan as Chaplains for this meeting of the Presbytery.
4. Appoint Ps Julie Ridden and Robert Watson as scrutineers for this meeting of the Presbytery.
5. Appoint Sue Whitworth to serve as our Returning Officer on a transitional basis until our nominations and elections process is finalised.
6. Recognise Janine McDonald and Ps Dr Elaine Ledgerwood as First Aiders for this meeting.
7. Authorise the Presbytery Standing Committee to confirm the minutes of this meeting of the Presbytery.
8. Authorise the Presbytery Standing Committee to act on all matters that are the responsibility of the Presbytery including those excluded items in Presbytery Rule 3.1.2 if a public health warning in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic leads to the cancellation of any future meeting of the Presbytery.
9. Associate Saumya Tripathi for the purpose of providing information regarding the congregational WH&S Project.

10. Approve the following meeting dates for 2022, as recommended by the Presbytery Standing Committee:

Presbytery Meetings:

19 March
18 June
19 November

Presbytery Standing Committee Meetings:

1 February
1 March
5 April
3 May
7 June
5 July
2 August
6 September
4 October
1 November
6 December

The order of business was amended by consensus to move Niue faith community discussion to immediately after the lunch break.

The proposal was approved by consensus.

4. OPENING WORSHIP

CEDAL Staff and our Candidates for ministry in their second phase of formation led the service, which incorporated a Bible Study from Rev Alan Jeffrey based on Matthew 7:24-27. He reminded us of the hope we hold in Jesus Christ, but also the challenge to be a community that lives in the faith of a present and living Lord.

5. PRESBYTERY STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The past Chairperson, Bob Hunt, presiding.

This report was received by presentation by Alison Xamon, the Presbytery Chairperson, who reflected on the breadth of the work of the Presbytery, reflecting on the importance of us getting the basics in place so that we may support the work of our many congregations.

Received by consensus. Alison Xamon resumed the Chair.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

This report was received by presentation by Ps Marilyn Price, the Presbytery Treasurer, who began by introducing the budget for 2022, indicating a \$61,000 deficit budget that has been the subject of a significant work and can be covered by current reserves.

She reported that we are expecting either a small positive or small deficit budget, and a much lower drawdown on Synod funds.

The report was received by consensus.

7. PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

This report was received by presentation by Rev Ivan Clark, Chairperson of the Pastoral Relations Committee, who reflected on the need for people from the Presbytery to assist with Joint Nominating Committees. He also informed the Presbytery of the updated Minister's Annual return form, and the hope that this has a better response rate than in previous years.

Ivan was requested to amend Minister's annual return forms to indicate that information provided by ministry agents on the form be confidential to the Presbytery Minister Pastoral, with only general trends being passed to the committee. This was referred to the Pastoral Relations Committee for consideration.

Ivan was asked to comment on the process of reviewing our culture of call and extension of placements process, Rev Alan Jeffrey (Presbytery Minister - Pastoral) indicated that he is currently preparing a paper for review by the Pastoral Relations Committee.

The report was received by consensus.

8. THRIVE MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

This report was received by presentation by Rev Greg Ross, Chairperson of the Thrive Mission Committee, who highlighted the clarification provided regarding mission plans, and distributed the existing information regarding manses, asking members to take them to their Church Councils for consideration.

The report was received by consensus.

9. CEDAL (Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership) REPORT

This report was received by presentation by Rev David Kriel, Chairperson of CEDAL, who highlighted the complexity of the process of formation and the large number of people involved. One group whose work he wished to acknowledge and thank are the formation panels, who support the process for each candidate for ministry.

The report was received by consensus.

Rev Dr Anne Wright, Director of Education and Formation, CEDAL, informed the meeting that 9 Ministers are currently seeking admission to our denomination who are also being supported by CEDAL.

Alison noted that this is Rev David Kriel's last meeting as Chairperson of CEDAL and thanked him for his work. This was shown by acclamation.

10. CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRY COMMITTEE

This report was received by presentation by Rev Bev Fabb, Chairperson of the Candidates for Ministry Committee, who highlighted the characteristics that the CMC are looking for in people presenting for

leaders, and reminded the members of the important part that congregations play in identifying and encouraging these people.

11. INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NETWORK

This report was received by presentation by Ps Julie Ridden, Convenor of the Intergenerational Ministry Network, who celebrated the significant youth and children's ministry currently occurring in our congregation. She reminded the Presbytery that one of the benefits of this being a network is that anyone who is interested in this ministry are welcome to join.

12. RURAL MINISTRY REPORT

This report was received by presentation by Rev Dr David Ferguson, Presbytery Officer, who informed the Presbytery that Rev Gordon Scantlebury has taken on convening this group. The issues raised were care for our many small congregations, property issues but also encouragement of some intentional relationships between congregations.

13. MULTICULTURAL NETWORK

This report was presented by Rev Bev Fabb, Convenor of the Multicultural Network, pointing out that in other Synods these congregations are growing quickly, in our experience these congregations face many challenges – and our need to put energy and concentration into these matters. Bev announced that she will be standing down from her interim role at the next meeting of the Presbytery.

14. INFORMATION SESSION FOR PROPOSAL 2

Rev Bev Fabb, Convenor of the Candidates for Mission Committee brought information to assist the Presbytery in their determinations regarding the proposal to ordain Mitchell Garlett.

Rev Robert Jemma spoke on behalf of the UAICC, indicating their support for him as he has already stepped up to a significant role.

Cheryl Lawson spoke on behalf of Maaman "O" Miya Congregation, reflecting how Mitchell has been on a common journey with the congregation as they grew up together.

Mitchell spoke regarding his journey to ministry and sense of call.

15. DETERMINATION SESSION FOR PROPOSAL 2

Rev Bev Fabb, Convenor of the Candidates for Mission Committee brought answers to questions brought from the Presbytery regarding the information provided previously. The Presbytery was given a chance to discuss the matter before ballots were distributed on the following proposal:

That the Presbytery of WA agree to ordain Mitchell Garlett as a Minister of the Word, subject to him receiving a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Studies from the Assembly and being called to a placement.

16. INFORMATION SESSION – CONGREGATIONAL WH&S PROJECT

Saumya Tripathi, Synod Insurance and Risk Assistant Manager, presented an update relating to changes in State Workplace Health and Safety legislation that will consider congregations to be entities responsible for the care of people using our facilities or participating in our activities. She is working on a project to develop and distribute resources for congregations to assist them in meeting their obligations under this new legislation and is requesting congregations and faith communities to appoint an “officer” to assist in this process.

17. ANNOUNCEMENT OF BALLOT – PROPOSAL 2

Alison Xamon vacated the Chair to advise Mitchell of the outcome of the ballot, with Bob Hunt stepping in as past Chairperson.

Alison then resumed the Chair and announced that the vote on the proposal was successful.

Cheryl Lawson led the Presbytery in prayer for Mitchell, the Presbytery, Congress and the covenant between us.

18. NOMINATIONS REPORT

Sue Whitworth, Returning Officer informed the Presbytery of the nominations received for the positions announced in preparation for the meeting.

Chair of CEDAL

Rev Claire Pickering

As the number of nominees did not exceed the number of positions, under Presbytery Rules no ballot was required, and the Presbytery endorsed Claire in this role by consensus.

Presbytery Standing Committee

Mary Riley

As the number of nominees did not exceed the number of positions, under Presbytery Rules no ballot was required, and the Presbytery endorsed Mary in this role by consensus.

CEDAL members (4 places)

Rev David Kriel

Ps Lindsay Ginn

Dr Alexandra Hugman

Dr Karen Flowers

As the number of nominees did not exceed the number of positions, under Presbytery Rules no ballot was required, and the Presbytery endorsed these people in these roles by consensus.

19. REPORT OF JOINT PROPERTY STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

Bob Hunt introduced the Presbytery to the work of the Joint Synod and Presbytery Working Group.

20. LAUNCH OF THRIVE PROPERTY RESEARCH PROJECT

Rev Greg Ross introduced a research project to assist the Presbytery to develop a property strategy, reassessing the value for mission of the properties we currently own in recognition of our responsibility for stewardship and also to consider where we may need to invest. There will be two opportunities for the whole Presbytery to work online.

21. FACILITATED SHARING

Table group sharing was framed around the property work being done, feedback was collected and provided to the working group and Thrive Mission Committee.

22. PLENARY SESSION

Tables were also invited to submit any general points they would like raised from the work of the day, these were gathered for analysis by the Business Committee.

23. PROPOSAL 6 – RECOGNITION OF TAPU NIUE FAITH COMMUNITY

Rev Ivan Clark presented, and Ps Dr Elaine Ledgerwood the following proposal on behalf of the Pastoral Relations Committee, along with Pepe Halatau representing the Niue community:

That the Presbytery:

1. recognise the Tapu Niue worshipping community as a Faith Community of the UCA Presbytery of WA under Regulation 3.9.2(a);
2. request that PRC act on behalf of the Presbytery, under Reg 3.9.2(c), to ensure that this new Faith Community has appropriate oversight and accountability; and
3. welcome and encourage this new addition to the life and witness of our Presbytery

The proposal was approved by consensus and Rev Dr David Ferguson prayed for their work and our journey together.

24. COMMISSIONING OF CHAIRPERSON OF CEDAL

Alison Xamon led us in a short service to commission Rev Claire Pickering as the Chairperson of CEDAL.

25. SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

Alison Xamon provided us with a summary of the table group responses, provided responses to some of them, and referred some suggestions to the various committees of the Presbytery. No proposals arose from this process.

26. MISSION MINUTES

- Ps Dr Elaine Ledgerwood promoted the “Beyond Violence” training day to be held on Thursday.
- Rev Dr Anne Wright promoted the “Summer Spirit” event to be held in January
- Floreat announced that they will be hosting Christmas Carols with musicians from Scotch College on 5 December
- Rev Dr Christine Sorenson promoted the Elders/Church Council training that is available
- Janine McDonald promoted the Carols Together service to be held at MLC on 12 Dec
- Rev Ivan Clark spoke on a local food relief program that is running at Noranda
- Rev Dr Anne Wright promoted the annual CEDAL closure service to be held at Floreat UCA at 6:30 on Friday night.

27. PROPOSAL 3 – CHANGES TO PRESBYTERY RULES

Rev Des Cousins presented the following motion on behalf of the working group between Church Law and the Presbytery Standing Committee:

That the WA Presbytery adopt the revised:

Presbytery Rules P.1 – approved by consensus

Presbytery Rules P.2 – approved by consensus

Presbytery Rules P.3 –

Des moved that this have a new subclause, and Rev Dr Christine Sorenson seconded the proposal that the following clause be added:

3.2 (d) Candidates for the Ministry of the Word, Deacon or Pastor who are not otherwise members of the Presbytery shall be co-opted as members of the Presbytery during the term of their candidacy.

This was approved by consensus

The amended rules were approved by consensus

Presbytery Rules P.4 – approved by consensus

These will be published on the Presbytery website

28. PROPOSAL 4 – COMMISSIONING OF VOLUNTEER LAY PEOPLE INTO THE MINISTRY OF PASTOR

Rev Ivan Clark and Rev Alan Jeffrey presented the following proposal on behalf of the Pastoral Relations Committee:

That the Presbytery:

Begin the process of commissioning those volunteer lay people who are already acting in a ministerial capacity in a congregation or faith community as pastors.

In their assessment of individuals and their ministry for commissioning, the phrase “ministerial capacity” shall be understood as a ministry that fulfils multiple requirements of the scope of the Ministry of Pastor as described in Regulation 2.2.2 and also is a ministry that does or is expected to develop to incorporate multiple elements of the scope of the specified ministry of Minister as described in Reg 2.2.1a.

The proposal was approved by consensus.

29. PROPOSAL 5 – ADOPTION OF BUDGET

Ps Marilyn Price, Presbytery Treasurer, presented the following motion on behalf of the Presbytery Standing Committee.

That the Presbytery of WA adopt the 2022 Presbytery Budget as presented to this meeting.

The proposal was approved by consensus.

30. CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY MILESTONES

The Presbytery gathered in worship to celebrate the ministry of those below who had significant anniversaries of ordination in 2021:

65 Years

Harry Lucas
Don Pederick

60 Years

Allan Shallcross
Lawrence Staton

55 Years

Ian MacPherson

50 Years

Ray Foster

Brian Thornber

45 Years

Bev Fabb

40 Years

Ken Devereux

30 Years

Gordon Scantlebury

Trevor Waters

Hollis Wilson

John Myles

20 Years

Andrew Morris

10 Years

Emma Matthews

Ivan Clark

Toby Keva

31. FINAL THANKS

As the meeting concluded, Alison Xamon expressed thanks to the following people for their assistance in the running of the Presbytery meeting:

Noranda Uniting Church:

- Rev Ivan Clark, Helen McMillan and her team for serving us and keep us hydrated.

Welcome to Country

- Mitchell Garlett

Opening Worship and Prayer

- Candidates for Ministries and CEDAL Staff
- Rev Alan Jeffrey

Presbytery Chairperson's and meeting Chaplains

- Rev Dr Herman Nienaber
- Rev Ruth Vertigan

Report Writers

- For all the reports received

Nominations

- Sue Whitworth
- Robert Watson

- Ps Julie Ridden

Congress

- Mitchell Garlett
- Rev Rob Jetta
- Lenny Yarran

Registrations

- Ps Marilyn Price
- Rev Bev Fabb

First Aid

- Janine McDonald
- Elaine Ledgerwood

Time keeping

- Bruce Wilson

Zoom link

- Rev Luke Williams
- Amanda Badenhorst

Catering

- Temptations Catering

Presbytery Support Staff

- Amanda Badenhorst

32. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was then closed with a prayer led by Rev Greg Ross at 3:45.



Alison Xamon
Chairperson

2021

Uniting Church in Australia
PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

COMMITTEES AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS
As at 20 November 2021

Presbytery Officers P2.4				
SUMMARY GUIDELINES See Rules/Regulations for further specific details	POSITION	NAME	CONTINUOUS SINCE	ELECTION DUE
Elected by Presbytery (2 yrs.)	Chairperson	Alison Xamon	2021	2023
	Immediate past Chairperson	Bob Hunt		X
Chairperson-elect is elected at the Presbytery meeting prior to the annual meeting in 2021.				
Elected by Presbytery	Secretary	Rev Dr David Ferguson	11/2020	11/2023
Elected by Presbytery	Treasurer	Ps Marilyn Price	10/2018	11/2022

Presbytery Standing Committee P3.1 Standing Committee acts on behalf of Presbytery between Presbytery meetings				
	POSITION	NAME	CONTINUOUS SINCE	ELECTION DUE
	Chairperson	Alison Xamon		X
	Immediate Past Chairperson	Bob Hunt		X
	Secretary	Rev Dr David Ferguson		X
	Treasurer	Ps Marilyn Price		X
3 Chairs <i>ex officio</i>	Chairperson of CEDAL	Rev Claire Pickering		X
	Convener of PRC	Rev Ivan Clark		X
	Chairperson of Thrive Mission	Rev Greg Ross		X
4 members elected by Presbytery. Elected for 2 yrs. Half to retire each year	Presbytery	Mary Riley	2021	2023
	Presbytery	Yuko Tonai-Moore	2021	2023
	Presbytery	Michelle Bunn	2020	2022
	Presbytery	Rev Roy Alexander Surjanegara	2020	2022
Co-opted by PSC	Co-opted			
	Co-opted			

Pastoral Relations Committee P3.2	To assist the Presbytery fulfil its duties in regard to the pastoral and administrative oversight of all ministers and pastoral charges in the Presbytery To consult with Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements			
	POSITION	NAME	CONTINUOUS SINCE	ELECTION DUE
Elected by Presbytery (1 Year)	Chairperson	Rev Ivan Clark	2021	2022
Non-Voting Staff Presbytery Officer Presbytery Minister (Pastoral)		Rev David Ferguson Rev Alan Jeffrey		X
6 Members elected by Presbytery	Presbytery	Rev Dr Sonny Rajamoney	2021	2022
	Presbytery	Rev Marie Wilson	2016	2021
	Presbytery	Sue Whitworth	2019	2021
	Presbytery	John Boon	2016	2021
	Presbytery	David Williams	2020	2021
	Presbytery	Sue Strutt	2021	2022
2 co-options for balance/experience	Co-option			
	Co-option			

Thrive Mission Committee P4.6	To inspire, resource, oversee and guide the Uniting Church in WA to encourage the Presbytery, congregations, faith communities and other church bodies to discern theologically and engage strategically in the Mission of God.			
	POSITION	NAME	CONTINUOUS SINCE	ELECTION DUE
Chairperson elected by Presbytery for 3-year term	Chairperson	Rev Greg Ross	2016	2022
Max 8 Elected by Presbytery	Presbytery	Rev Stephen Van Schalkwyk	2017	2022
	Presbytery	Heather Hamblin	2020	2022
	Presbytery	Yuko Tonai-Moore	2016	2022
	Presbytery	Rhod Wright	2020	2022
	Presbytery	Yvonne Robinson	2019	2022
	Presbytery	Rev Lorraine Stokes	2021	2022
	Presbytery	Dr Scott Hollier	2020	2022
	Presbytery	Mr Yanuar Darmadinata	2020	2022
Up to 3 co-options for balance	Co-option			
	Co-option			
	Co-option			
Non-voting Staff members	Director, Education and Formation	Rev Dr Anne Wright		X

Candidates for the Ministries Committee P3.3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection, pastoral care, and oversight of candidates - Admission of Ministers from other denominations - Period of Discernment process 		
	POSITION	NAME	CONTINUOUS SINCE	ELECTION DUE
Convener elected by Presbytery (three-year term)	Chairperson	Rev Bev Fabb	2020	2022
Director (CEDAL)	Director CEDAL	Rev Dr Anne Wright		X
Chair CEDAL or nominee	Chair of CEDAL	Rev Claire Pickering		X
5 elected by Presbytery (three-year term)	Presbytery	Rev Gary van Heerden	2016	2022
	Presbytery	Rev Toby Keva	2019	2022
	Presbytery	Rev Kim Francis	2018	2022
	Presbytery	Bob French	2020	2023
	Presbytery	Doug Burtenshaw	2020	2023
2 co-options for balance	Co-option			
	Co-option			

Commission for Education for Discipleship & Leadership (CEDAL) P3.5		To foster, encourage and develop the educational work of the Presbytery and Synod for faith formation for discipleship and leadership		
	POSITION	NAME	CONTINUOUS SINCE	ELECTION DUE
Elected by Presbytery (3 Yr. term)	Chairperson	Rev Claire Pickering	2021	2024
Principal Perth Theological Hall		Rev Dr Anne Wright		X
Faculty Rep		Rev Dr Christine Sorensen		X
Student Rep		Samuel Annan		X
6 Members elected by Presbytery (3-year terms).		Jon Haslam	2020	2023
		Rev David Kriel	2021	2024
		Hanamo Vaitogi	2019	2022
		Ps Lindsay Ginn	2021	2024
		Dr Alexandra Hugman	2021	2024
		Dr Karen Flowers	2021	2024
Co-options		Rev Cathy Lambert		

Assembly Representatives		Assembly 2021 in Queensland		
	POSITION	NAME	CONTINUOUS SINCE	ELECTION DUE
2 representatives, one Ministerial and one Lay	Ministerial representative	Rev Dr David Ferguson		
	Lay representative	Bob Hunt		